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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1644**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	<i>Application Number</i>	09/210,952
	<i>Filing Date</i>	December 15, 1998
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Michael M. FAINZILBER
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	1644
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	P. Nolan
	<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	2314-147
<i>Title of the Invention:</i> GAMMA-CONOPEPTIDES		

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COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Communication is being submitted in response to the May 21, 2002 Final Office Action issued by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Office Action was originally due August 21, 2002. A three-month extension of time extending the due date to November 21, 2002 accompanies this Communication and thus, this Communication is being timely filed. A Notice of Appeal also is being concurrently filed.

REMARKS

Claims 20-31 and 33-36 are pending in the instant application. The Examiner has rejected claims 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not being fully enabled. The Examiner has objected to claims 27-31 and 33-36 as being dependent on a rejected base claim (claim 20), but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has further stated that the specification is enabling for use of the specific conopeptides PnVIIA and TxVIIA as agonists of neuronal pacemaker cation channels. The Examiner has asserted, however, that although claims